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CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from the Lonal Border Area of Land

Thuringia

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 6 March 1951

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Border control in the area of the Grenzpolizei Kommandantur in Gerstungen was intensified in January 1951. At some places special police patrols were employed while no changes were observed in the distribution of stationary border guards. It was learned that the Grenzpolizei Kommandantur in Gerstungen maintained Grenzpolizei Kommandos of 20 to 30 police each in Gerstungen and Berka, commanded by VP Kommissar Gabler, (fnu), and VP Kommissar Simon, (fnu), respectively, a Kommando of 20 to 25 police in Untersuhl; Kommandos of about 10 police each in Abteroda, Gasteroda, and Vitzeroda; and Kommandos of undetermined strength in Sallmannshausen and Teustadt.

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The rural police from Berka, Dankmarshausen, and probably also from other localities, were pooled in Gerstungen. Their functions were assumed by the Grenzpolizei. Persons arrested in this area were still delivered to the rural police post in Gerstungen. Police patrols and sentries were usually relieved at 8 a.m., noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m., and midnight; with four hours of patrol duty and a four-hour tour as sentry each policeman was on duty for eight consecutive hours. (1)

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2. Until 3 February 1951, Soviet soldiers in Schweikertshausen were quartered in the castle there. A telephone wire was strung from the castle to the AT gun emplacement by the Ernershausen-Schweikertshausen road.
3. All Volkspolizei from Schweikertshausen, Mieth, Ibinghausen and Westhausen were transferred to Gompertshausen on 30 January 1951.
4. The 17 Soviet soldiers previously stationed in Linden departed for an undetermined destination on 30 January 1951. The road fork at the Linden-Schlechtsort road has been permanently guarded by two soldiers since 29 January 1951.

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Document No. 11

No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

Class. Changed To: TS S C

Date: 030828

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5. The Soviet detachment in Milz moved into the former children's home which, in turn, was moved into the former quarters of the detachment. The Soviet detachment from Loemhild was transferred to Milz. (2)

6. It was learned [] that the summer house in Gerstungen, which was previously reported, was occupied by Soviet soldiers who wore black epaulets with signal insignia. A rod antenna, 4 meters high, was erected about 4 meters from the summer house. No lead wires were observed. (3)

7. On 10 February, the Soviet guard detail in Dippach moved into the last house on the right side of the road leading to Leimbach. Double sentries stood a distance of 200 meters from the village. Truck [] was parked in front of the Soviet quarters.

8. The Soviet detachment in Wartha vacated its quarters in the wooden buildings near the railroad station and moved into the inn at the railroad crossing near the road fork to Wartha. Truck [] was parked in front of the inn. A Grenzpolizei Kommando moved into the former quarters of the Soviet detachment near the railroad station. No Soviet sentries other than those mentioned above were observed at the Gerstungen-Vacha road. (4)

Comments.

(1) The Grenzpolizei Kommandos in the localities mentioned are known, except for that in Gasterode. However, records indicate that the VP Kommandos in Untersuhl, Berka, Abteroda and Witzroda belong to the Kommandatur in Dornbach, rather than to that in Gerstungen. The subordination of the Kommandos in Sallmannshausen and Neustadt has not been determined. The Soviet motor vehicles observed in Berka and Dankmarshausen belong to the 57th Gds Rtlz Rifle Div which furnishes the Soviet border guard detachments in this area.

(2) Compare with similar information of early January 1951 on the reoccupation of Schweikertshausen, Linden and Milz, []

(3) [] a Soviet detail of six soldiers to have been quartered in the summer house in Gerstungen on 3 February 1951. []

(4) [] a Soviet border guard detail of one officer and eight PM was stationed on the Dippach-Leimbach road. [] The motor vehicles mentioned in the present report belonged to a component unit of the 57th Gds Rtlz Rifle Div.

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